

Eastern Sierra Nevada & Northern Mojave Desert Recreation Information Update May 24 – 30, 2012

Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Junction of US HWY 395 & SR 136
Lone Pine, California 93545

(760) 876-6222
TDD 876-6228

Open Daily: 8:00am to 5:00pm – open Memorial Day – Monday 5/28

ROADS: Major Eastern Sierra roads are open, including HWY 395 (drivers subject to 20 minute delays at Topaz Lake). Trans Sierra roads – SR 120 (Tioga Pass), SR 108 (Sonora Pass) and SR 4 (Ebbets Pass) are open. SR 120 East (Mono Mills) is closed for construction through 5:00pm, Thursday (5/24). *Slow for the Cone Zone*, while traveling through construction work zones. Call 1-800-427-ROAD (1-800-427-7623) or visit the website at www.dot.ca.gov for California highway conditions and construction schedules. For Nevada roads, call 1-877-NVROADS (1-877-687-6237) or visit the web at www.nevadadot.com.

The road to **DEVILS POSTPILE NATIONAL MONUMENT** and Reds Meadow is closed due to snow and wind storm damage. Pedestrian and bicycle access on the Reds Meadow road, past the Minaret Vista Station, is prohibited due to hazards associated with roadside cleanup, falling of trees, removal of loose rock and the repair of the road. Visit the **MAMMOTH LAKES WELCOME CENTER** for Reds Meadow road information, current recreation conditions, wilderness permits and visitor guides; open daily 8:00am to 5:00pm (open 5/28), or call 1-760-924-5500. In the White Mountains, the paved road to Schulman Grove in the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest is open. White Mountain road, the dirt road north of Schulman Grove to the White Mountain Peak trailhead, is open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles are required. Silver and Wyman Canyon roads are open; 4x4 high clearance vehicles are required.

Major highways through **DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK** are open. The Big Pine, Titus Canyon, Salt Creek, Devils Golf Course, West Side and Charcoal Kilns dirt roads are open. The North Saline Valley road is open; 4x4 high clearance recommended. The South Pass into Saline Valley is posted closed by Inyo County (4x4 high clearance vehicles required/travel at your own risk). Rangers ask visitors traveling to remote desert valleys to leave a complete itinerary at home, obtain a backcountry road map and be prepared for the unexpected. Drivers need to be sure their vehicle is in good condition and to carry an additional spare tire, extra gas, food and water. For backcountry road information, check the web site at www.nps.gov/deva ("Plan Your Visit/Things To Do/Outdoor Activities") and the Morning Report for current conditions.

WEATHER: Unsettled weather generating gusty winds, cool temperatures and a chance of showers over the mountains are expected on Thursday through Saturday over the Eastern Sierra and Northern Mojave, as a low pressure system into Northern California moves eastward. High pressure is expected to build over the region late Saturday, producing sunny days and warming temperatures for the rest of the weekend. Temperatures are forecast to reach near normal levels by Monday. Highs have been in the low 40s in the mountains, mid 80s in the Owens Valley and around 105 in Death Valley, with the lows ranging from the 20s in the mountains, to the upper 70s in Death Valley.

CAMPGROUNDS: **INYO COUNTY** campgrounds are open. Additional privately operated campgrounds and RV facilities are open throughout the area. **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**, the following Bishop Field office campgrounds are open: Tuttle Creek (fee/no drinking water), the Pleasant Valley pit (fee/no drinking water) and Crowley Lake (fee/no drinking water). Goodale Creek and Horton Creek are closed for renovations; they will open later this summer.

INYO and HUMBOLDT-TOIYABE NATIONAL FOREST, Lone Pine to Bridgeport, many campgrounds are open. Some Forest Service campsites are reservable, check the web site at www.recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777.

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK – Yosemite Valley campgrounds, Wawona (SR 41) and Hodgdon Meadows (SR 120 near Big Oak Flat) are open and have sites available on a reservation basis. Crane Flat and Tuolumne Meadows will open later in the summer; sites may be reserved now. Reservations are accepted five months in advance on the 15th of each month, for a one-month block through recreation.gov or call 1-877-444-6777. Campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis at Camp Four walk-in campground in Yosemite Valley. For park information, visit the web site at www.nps.gov/yose.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK, open sites include: Texas Spring, Mesquite Springs, Emigrant (tent only/no fee) and Wildrose (no fee). Furnace Creek campground is closed for sewer and water line replacement, estimated opening in late May. RV hook-ups are available at Furnace Creek Ranch, Stovepipe Wells Village and Panamint Springs Resort. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/deva.

Cooperating Agencies of the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center

Inyo County

California - Department of Transportation

Bureau of Land Management

California - Department of Fish & Game

National Park Service

Mono County

City of Los Angeles - Department of Water & Power

USDA - Forest Service

FISHING: The general fishing season is open in the Eastern Sierra and many lakes and streams are stocked regularly by the California Department of Fish and Game. The **BISHOP CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** has up-to-date fishing reports for many locations in the area: call 1-760-873-8405 for more information. The 2012 Eastern Sierra Fishing Guide is available at sporting goods stores throughout the region. Copies of California fishing regulations are available at the Visitor Center, or on the web at www.dfg.ca.gov.

MOUNTAIN BIKING: The Mammoth Mountain Bike Park offers some of the world's best mountain biking. The Bike Park will open on the lower-mountain trails Saturday, May 26. These trails will be serviced by the Bike Park's uphill shuttle from The Village to the Main Lodge. For more information, visit the web at www.mammothmountain.com or call 1-888-766-9778

WINTER SPORTS: MAMMOTH MOUNTAIN is open with a 1 to 3 foot base through Monday, 5/28. For daily lift operation and snow conditions, visit the web site at www.mammothmountain.com, or call 1-888-766-9778.

BACKCOUNTRY: Backpackers should be prepared for icy terrain, cold temperatures and sudden weather changes. The snow level on the Whitney trail is approximately 11,000 feet (lower on north facing slopes). In Yosemite National Park, the current snow level is approximately 8,500 feet. The **Half Dome cables** are scheduled to be ready for use on Friday, 5/25. Wilderness Permits are required daily to hike to the top of Half Dome this summer. **Be Bear Aware** when parking at trailheads, cars must not be left with any food or related items that will attract these animals and result in significant vehicle damage.

BEARS (and other hungry animals, including marmots) are active in the backcountry. Backpackers should be prepared to protect their food (and all other items that emit odors) from such animals at all times! Backpackers are required to use portable, bear resistant food canisters on the Cottonwood Pass, Cottonwood Lakes, Mt. Whitney, Kearsarge Pass, Bishop Pass, Treasure Lakes, Dusy Basin, Palisade, Little Lakes Valley, Duck Pass/Purple Lake and Rush Creek/Mammoth lakes trails of the National Forest and some Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Park trails. They are available to rent at many locations.

WILDERNESS PERMITS are required for overnight travel all year long. Trailhead quotas, which daily limit the number of hikers on trails, are in effect for Inyo National Forest wilderness areas. Permits may be obtained at the Eastern Sierra InterAgency Visitor Center (Lone Pine), White Mountain Ranger Station in Bishop, Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center and the Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center (Lee Vining) during office hours. For more information on Inyo National Forest wilderness permits, including the new reservation system, please visit the web site at www.fs.usda.gov/inyo.

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS: 43rd ANNUAL MULE DAYS CELEBRATION - TUESDAY, MAY 22 THROUGH SUNDAY, MAY 27 in Bishop, commemorating the history of this pioneering animal. A full schedule of activities is planned including mule shows, a non-motorized parade, rodeo style events, packing competitions, music and much, much more. Call 1-760-872-4263 for information, or visit the web site at www.muledays.org. **MEMORIAL DAY ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW - Friday, May 25 through Monday, May 28**, at the Bishop City Park featuring quality handcrafted items and fine arts. Call 1-760-873-8014 for questions.

ONGOING ACTIVITIES:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK is open daily 9:00am to 6:00pm (open 5/28). Visitors should bring drinking water, food and warm clothes for a visit to Bodie; dogs must be on a six ft. leash (recreation fee area).

The **MONO BASIN NATIONAL FOREST SCENIC AREA/TUFA STATE RESERVE** Visitor Center, located 1 mile north of Lee Vining on HWY 395, is open 8:00am to 5:00pm daily (open 5/28), for displays, information and a film presentation.

Remember the days of the "Slim Princess"! Visit **LAWS RAILROAD MUSEUM & HISTORIC SITE**, four miles north of Bishop on HWY 6, to learn of early days in the Owens Valley. Laws is open daily 10:00am to 4:00pm (open 5/28).

BRISTLECONE PINE FOREST Information Station at Schulman Grove is open Friday - Monday from 10:00am to 5:00pm.

EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM in Independence is open from 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (open 5/28), with exhibits on Inyo County; including a significant collection of Native American baskets and artifacts from Manzanar NHS.

The Interpretive Center at **MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE**, located 5 miles south of Independence, is open daily from 9:00am to 5:30pm (open 5/28). Check at the Interpretive Center or the web at www.nps.gov/manz for information.

Visit the Beverly & Jim Rogers **MUSEUM OF LONE PINE FILM HISTORY**; with exhibits celebrating the heroes, the films and the locations of the many movies shot in the area. The museum opens daily at 10:00am; closing at 6:00pm Monday through Wednesday, at 7:00pm Thursday through Saturday and at 4:00pm on Sunday (open 5/28).

BLM JAWBONE STATION REGIONAL OHV FACILITY is open 9:00am to 5:00pm daily for trip assistance (open 5/28). The station is located 25 miles north of Mojave on SR 14 for pre-trip information; call 1-760-373-1146.

DEATH VALLEY NATIONAL PARK VISITOR CENTER at Furnace Creek is open daily, 8:00am to 5:00pm (open 5/28). **SCOTTY'S CASTLE** has "Living History" tours from 9:00am to 4:00pm (open 5/28). Reservations for Scotty's Castle tours are available on the web at recreation.gov, or call 1-877-444-6777.

Reports on current recreation conditions, schedules of planned events and detailed information on visitor destinations throughout the Eastern Sierra Nevada and Northern Mojave Desert are available daily at the Visitor Center. 5/24/12kcw